

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 AID-05 OMB-01 L-03 (ISO) W

----- 051239

R 191135Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3708

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 0576

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PK US

SUBJECT: FLIGHT TRAINING FOR PAKISTAN AIR FORCE

REF: STATE 11097, ODRP/ISLAMABAD 150700Z JAN 76

1. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS, BOTH FROM ODRP AND PAF, THAT ONLY REASON PAF WANTS TO ENROLL ITS PILOTS IN THE TWO TRAINING COURSES IS TO UPGRADE PILOTS' FIGHTER COMBAT TECHNIQUES. PAF PUTS CONSIDERABLE STORE IN ITS PILOTS' FLYING ABILITIES, ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING RELATIVE INFERIORITY OF AIRCRAFT IN ITS INVENTORY.

2. EMBASSY HAS JUST LEARNED FROM VISITING CINCPAC TEAM THAT USAF INTENDS TO OFFER SIMILAR COURSES ON F-5 STARTING WITHIN NEXT SIX MONTHS. ODRP HAS SO NOTIFIED PAF, WITHOUT INDICATING WHETHER SLOTS WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR PAK PILOTS. PAF IS WELL AWARE IT WOULD BE LESS COSTLY TO TRAIN THEIR PILOTS IN THIS NEW PROGRAM. PAF HAS CONSEQUENTLY ASKED FOR TIME TO EVALUATE THIS NEW INFORMATION AND EMBASSY RECOMMENDS, AND ODRP CONCURS, THAT WASHINGTON TAKE NO ACTION ON REF ODRP MESSAGE UNTIL PAF DECIDED WHICH WAY IT WANTS TO PROCEED. ONCE WE RECEIVZAYEW PJD TRAINING REQUEST, WE WILL THEN MAKE OUR
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RECOMMENDATION TO THE DEPARTMENT.

3. DEPARMENT SHOULD BE AWARE, HOWEVER, THAT REGARDLESS OF COURSES FINALLY REQUESTED, EMBASSY BELIEVES PAF WANTS ITS PILOTS TO TAKE THE TRAINING COURSE IN ORDER TO UPGRADE PILOT PROFICIENCY, NOT TO GET FOOT IN DOOR FOR EVENTUAL PURCHASE OF AN AIRCRAFT. PAF SEES AIRCRAFT USED IN COURSE AS A TRAINING VEHICLE, AND FULLY RECOGNIZES OUR OFFERING COURSE IN NO WAY IMPLIES USG WOULD ENTERTAIN REQUEST TO PURCHASE THE AIRCRAFT. WE VIEW TRAINING AS LEGITIMATE ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN, WITHIN POLICY GUIDELINES, WHICH WILL HELP PAF UPGRADE COMBAY TECHNIQUES WHICH ARE RAPIDLY BECOMEING OUTDATED.

4. EMBASSY ALSO NOTES THAT PAF BELIEVES OFFER FROM USAF WAS COMMITMENT TO MAKE TRAINING AVAILABLE. WE REALIZE THIS IS NOT BINDING SINCE DOD AND STATE CONCURRENCE WAS NOT OBTAINED, BUT ASSUME FACT THAT OFFER MADE WILL BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION ONCE WASHINGTON REVIEW UNDERTAKEN.
BYROADE

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